

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-70 (canceled)

Claim 71 (currently amended): A transgenic plant comprising a recombinant polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide that is at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4,

wherein said polypeptide comprises a first conserved domain that is at least ~~[[65%]]~~ 68% identical to amino acids 134-199 of SEQ ID NO: 4, a second conserved domain that is at least 74% identical to amino 332-401 of SEQ ID NO: 4, and a third conserved domain that is at least 60% identical to amino 405-478 of SEQ ID NO: 4;

wherein the percent identity is determined using BLASTP program using as defaults a wordlength (W) of 3, an expectation (E) of 10, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix; and

wherein ~~expression of~~ the polypeptide, when expressed in the transgenic plant, regulates transcription and confers to the transgenic plant greater tolerance to water deprivation as compared to a control plant.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The transgenic plant of claim 71, wherein the polypeptide is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 73 (previously presented): The transgenic plant of claim 71, wherein the polypeptide is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 74 (previously presented): The transgenic plant of Claim 71, wherein the recombinant polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The transgenic plant of Claim 71, wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 76 (currently amended): The transgenic plant of Claim 71, wherein the transgenic

plant is more tolerant to a treatment of seven to eight days of a drought stress, or to a ~~treatment~~ treatment of seven to eight days of a drought stress followed by rewatering and two to three days of a recovery period, than the control plant.

Claim 77 (previously presented): The transgenic plant of Claim 71, wherein the recombinant polynucleotide comprises a constitutive, inducible, or tissue-specific promoter that regulates expression of the polypeptide.

Claim 78 (previously presented): A transgenic seed produced from the transgenic plant of Claim 71.

Claim 79 (currently amended): A transgenic plant comprising a recombinant polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide that is at least ~~95%~~ 85% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4; wherein the percent identity is determined using BLASTP program using as defaults a wordlength (W) of 3, an expectation (E) of 10, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix; and wherein the expression of the polypeptide regulates transcription and confers to the transgenic plant greater tolerance to water deprivation as compared to a control plant.

Claim 80 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 79, wherein the polypeptide is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 81 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 79, wherein the recombinant polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 82 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 71, wherein the polypeptide is at least 85% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.